

## **Dennis Daly – Two Poems**

### **Telegraph Line**

My breath hesitated, over  
And over in stuttered notes,  
Connected with you in some  
Bond of adolescent intensity  
Lived between telegraph dots  
And dashes. Your father ran  
The line from your bedroom  
In the project, across back-  
Yards and stockade fence  
To my soon-to-be-torn-down house.  
We used toggle switches to send  
And receive the dramatic  
Messages of war and peace  
Of secret armies massing  
Beyond the soccer field and sumac  
Groves, where enemy forts  
Guarded the outskirts of day-  
Dreamed estates. Vineyards  
Of deep blue concord grapes  
Were grabbed and gorged by us.  
Grateful to the easy gods  
Of languor, we exchanged plans  
Of epic lives and deft maturity.  
One day our line failed. Your breath  
Hesitated, over and over  
In stuttered notes, you railed  
At the lost current, the broken words,  
The mimicry of two skewed worlds.

### **Samarkand**

Over the rolling hills  
Into a denial of setting.  
One of Alexander's armies  
Dropped through the earth's crust  
Nearby. His generals sworn  
To secrecy. A defeat  
Expunged with meticulous  
Care. The Macedonian

Host stalled. Roxanne's  
People, sly and insinuating  
Themselves into the continent's  
Command. Such is the nature  
Of the place. Timur ruled  
His geography from here.  
Others looked to the stars,  
Observed the vast celestial globes  
Turning their faces away  
Retreating from our miniscule  
Lives, our universes of indecision  
Pent up, pressured, sprung back  
Into a reassuring denseness  
Encompassing all becomings.  
A new dimension birthed by fire,  
The etched map on an antique wall  
Drawn to perfect scale, scars,  
Angling toward the center of pulse and breath,  
Arrows a way home.

**Dennis Daly** was born in Salem Massachusetts and graduated from Boston College with a B.S. degree and earned a Master of Arts degree at Northeastern University. He has been published in numerous magazines and small poetry journals such as *The Sou'wester*, *Lyric*, *Boston Today Magazine*, *Soundings East*, *Tendril*, *Poetry &*, *Green House* and *Lyrical Somerville*. Daly is included with two other poets in a chapbook entitled *10 X 3*, published by Northeastern University Press. He has also done a verse translation of Sophocles' *Ajax*, which will be published in the next issue of *Wilderness House Literary Review*, along with four other poems.